

Notes for Remarks

by Ivan L. Head

to the

Board of Governors

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The environments within which IDRC functions have demonstrated major, and in some instances, startling, changes since last this full Board met in March. Members of the Executive Committee will have noted that some of the areas noted at their meeting in June have demonstrated essential evolution in that, even shorter, time interval. In the prominent and pivotal sectors of human dignity, political stability and environmental wholesomeness - sectors which influence so heavily economic development, and which in turn are consequences of development - the past six months have been remarkable.



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Cette conjoncture suscite un certain enthousiasme au CRDI. Enthousiasme qui, j'en suis sûr, est partagé par les gouverneurs et que remarquera certainement notre nouvelle venue au Conseil, M^{lle} Marie-Josée Pinard. Permettez-moi d'ajouter aux souhaits de bienvenue de la Présidente du Conseil ceux de tout le personnel du CRDI. Nous comptons sur votre apport tant au plan des orientations du Centre qu'à celui de l'évaluation des projets à financer. Vous vous joignez à nous au moment où le développement figure de plus en plus, dans l'esprit des gens, comme un élément important du bon fonctionnement de la collectivité internationale, et au moment où le gouvernement du Canada vient de saisir la Chambre des Communes de sa réponse à l'imposant rapport du comité permanent sur l'aide publique au développement. Nous vous souhaitons la bienvenue et vous remercions d'avance du temps et du travail que vous avez accepté de consacrer au CRDI en devenant membre de son Conseil des gouverneurs.

This past summer, the critical interrelationship of human population and environmental health passed a dramatic milestone as the number of persons on this planet passed the five billion mark for the first time in history. IDRC was both witness to that event and, through the dedication of Jean-Marc Fleury and his colleagues Louise Behan and Diane Hardy, agent of its better understanding. On July 11, the resource clock in the lobby of this building was the focal point of interest for Canada's news media. Television, radio and print journalists recorded and commented upon this event, and related it responsibly to the environmental fragility of the earth and to the policy challenges which these pose to decision-makers worldwide. Lest anyone be tempted to regard those issues as being of a sometime nature, demanding attention only on special occasions, a passerby this morning would have noted that in the 96 days that have passed since July 11, the world's population has increased by a further 21 million people. And the world's stock of available arable land has reduced by 586,500 thousand hectares.

It is the role of IDRC to assist human beings to utilize science and technology in ways that will enhance

their welfare while contributing to a sustainable wholesome environment. The Program and Policy Review documents which the Board has crafted and endorsed over the years make clear that IDRC, as it should, does not follow trends, but anticipates and in some instances shapes them. Long before the Brundtland Commission was created, IDRC insisted that agricultural research be premised upon the sustainable utilization of land, pioneered the concepts of agro-forestry that are now accepted worldwide, introduced novel techniques of sanitation and waste management, and dedicated major resources to the discovery and development of more effective means for the understanding and regulation of human fertility. Long before the House of Commons Standing Committee turned its attention to ODA policy, the Centre had adopted as a principal policy thrust the concept of human resource development, and a dominant field presence to ensure our sensitivity to the needs of the developing countries. Indeed it is our steadfast commitment to these policies that makes IDRC different from virtually every other donor organization.

The ever-increasing numbers of scientists in the developing countries who, with IDRC help, have expanded the

inventory of human knowledge and contributed relevant solutions to pressing problems have in some instances employed the newest and most sophisticated of technologies, while in others have demonstrated that traditional techniques, combined with common sense and sound scientific methodology lead to appropriate and effective results. And in every instance the experience gained, the skills enhanced, and the benefits obtained, have stayed in the developing countries.

Scientific and technological accomplishment, as we in Canada know so well, make heavy demands on human and financial resources, resources which are under pressure everywhere for activities that are often competitive with the objectives of development, and are sometimes contradictory to it. The mortmain of poverty becomes evermore obscene as humankind demonstrates on the one hand that virtually no endeavour is beyond the ability of science and technology to achieve, while on the other hand signals that human dignity is casually severable from human accomplishment. In the past 30 years, since the advent of Sputnik, the industrialized countries have placed into space at immense cost thousands of objects, 1702 of which remain

in earth orbit as functioning satellites. During that same period, the numbers of children worldwide who died of malnutrition and preventable disease exceeded 510 million. This week construction commences on a tunnel beneath the English Channel at a projected cost of \$12.9 billion. During each year of construction, the European OECD members will allocate to development assistance less than \$20 billion.

The Parliament of Canada did not create IDRC as a forum of moral pronouncement. Neither, however, would it expect the Centre to abdicate responsibility or suasion in its identification of need, in its recommendations for response, and in its efforts to fix priorities. In past reports to Governors, I have emphasized the critical importance to developing countries of equitable terms of trade, of reasonable commodity pricing, of access to capital markets, of reduced balance of payments deficits. These issues are as vital to modern economies as are food production, the acquisition of infrastructure, or the provision of social services. Happily, in the fiscal and monetary sectors, has there appeared some reason for hope in recent days. The World Bank's volume of adjustment

lending has increased sharply in the last reporting period, now 23% of new commitments compared with less than 10% only five years ago. At the recently concluded meetings of the Bank and the IMF, optimism was expressed that a capital increase of between 40 and 80 billion U.S. dollars was likely in months to come, the first capital increase in 7 years and a significant addition to the present capital base of 85.2 billion. The signal from the United States government that it would support such an increase must be interpreted as a fillip for the U.S. Congress to authorize - after a ^{two} ~~three~~ year delay - the IDA VIII replenishment, again good news.

In the course of the Bank-Fund meetings, much attention was paid, and properly so, to the debt and debt-servicing burdens of the developing countries. The first now exceeds one trillion dollars. The second varies, as a percentage of export earnings, at such unsustainable levels as 33.6% for Egypt, 34.8% for Brazil, and 48.2% for Mexico. Some elements of hope, of a quality still to be proven, may be found in the revival of the Baker Plan, the beginnings of a secondary bond market, and the quest for the creation of new financial instruments; the latter two designed to convert debt into negotiable and marketable

forms. It is too early to know whether the decision of the Canadian Government to write off \$325. million of government debt in Francophone Africa, announced at the Francophone Summit in Quebec in September, will be imitated by other creditor nations. The first major follow-on will be that of Canada again, this time in the neighbourhood of \$300.

million for cancellation of Anglophone African debts, to be announced in Vancouver this week at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting.

It was the publication in April of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development - the Brundtland Commission - that may prove to be in the long run the most influential event of 1987, even more momentous in its impact than the hoped-for U.S.-U.S.S.R. agreements on the elimination of intermediate range nuclear weapons and the reduction of strategic missiles. The imperative element of Brundtland is the conjunction in the title, the linkage between environment and development, which marks a critical advance from Stockholm in 1972.

Governors will endorse readily, I am confident, the findings of the Brundtland Commission that environmental degradation is a consequence of activities in the poorest, as well as in the richest, of societies. It is well

understood by the IDRC family that the most powerful ~~economic~~ imperative in the rural regions of developing countries is income generation. It follows, then, that the deterioration of the natural capital base is beyond the ability of individuals to control, no matter how concerned about it those persons may be. This form of deterioration, emphasized as it often is by population growth, is a poverty issue. The other major contributor to ecological failure takes the form of industrial pollutants; these originate in countries north and south and need to be reduced north and south.

In this latter respect, a hesitant but important step was taken recently when an international agreement was signed in Montreal September 16 by 46 nations to protect the earth's ozone layer through the limitation and the progressive reduction of chlorofluorocarbons production. That treaty is far from perfect, and reflects many of the short-sighted attitudes of years ago, but remains as an encouraging stepping stone towards ecological sustenance. It reflects the warnings and analyses of the Brundtland Commission.

The political composure of the developing regions of the world remains as uneven today as it has in recent years, with evidence of some long-sought advances - as in Central America, where the Arias Plan is apparently holding firm as the critical November 7 implementation date approaches, ^{a circumstance that will be strengthened by today's welcome news of the award} and in South Korea as preparations continue for this year's national elections. Elsewhere, retrogressive, sometimes terrifying, events remind us of how widespread and powerful are the visceral instincts which form part of the genetic stamping of our species. The military mutiny in the Philippines, the coup d'état in Fiji, the atrocities in Mozambique, the savagery in Sri Lanka, the barbarity in the Persian Gulf.

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Even in these latter instances is there positive movement. The precedential nature of the unanimous Security Council Resolution 598 last July 20, 1987 with respect to the Iraq-Iran war is one such. The recent thoughtful ^{article} ~~speech~~ by General Secretary Gorbachev proposing several steps to strengthen the United Nations and the International Court of Justice is another. At this moment, in Vancouver, the deliberations of the Commonwealth Heads of Government indicate that even such divisive issues as South Africa can

be addressed thoughtfully and, hopefully, effectively. Of less dramatic but nevertheless important effect in past months have been UNCTAD VII at Geneva in July where the Soviet Union signed the Common Fund agreement, and where the Final Act exhibited a welcome spirit of pragmatism and practicality and was adopted by consensus. In New York last month the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development focussed attention and opened debate on an area which is as challenging intellectually as it is important economically. Important steps were taken as well in the sectors of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. Two high level meetings pursued this goal: ~~and~~ a ministerial conference of the non-aligned at Pyongyang in June, and another sponsored by the G-77 at Havana in September. Both pledged support to the proposed Centre for Science and Technology of Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries which will be located in India and about which Governor Menon may wish to inform us in days to come. A third important meeting of this kind was that of African Science and Technology Ministers in Arusha - their first conference in 13 years.

Natural tragedy has always reminded human beings of their common roots and often encouraged welcome cooperation and some fleeting expression of humility. Again in recent months the forces of nature have been most destructive in developing countries with floods in Bangladesh, a landslide in Columbia, and drought in several countries in Africa as well as in India. None of these tragedies poses as widespread a threat or makes so necessary a cooperative spirit, however, as does the still mysterious scourge of AIDS. This disease manifests all the elemental forces of darkness - ignorance, fear, superstition. It projects in the final years of the 20th century reflections of human behaviour not unlike the hysteria associated with the age of witchcraft 300 hundred years ago. Fortunately the forces of darkness in 1987 are challenged by science and knowledge. In months to come the role of IDRC will expand as awareness spreads and the struggle intensifies. The Fifth International AIDS Conference will take place in Montreal in June, 1989. IDRC has agreed to act, with WHO and the Canadian ^{Department} ~~Ministry~~ of National Health, as a principal sponsor. We have accepted as well the responsibility of organizing the conference to ensure that societal and educational issues will be examined ^{in addition to} ~~as well as~~ the

biomedical which have dominated previous conferences, and to ensure as well that the developing countries participate fully as equals.

The conference is expected to attract as many as 10,000 registered participants, which will make it the largest scientific conference ever held in Canada.

De la plus haute importance pour le Centre au cours de cette période fut le rapport du Comité permanent des Affaires extérieures de la Chambre des Communes intitulé "Qui doit en profiter?", et la réponse du Gouvernement du Canada à ce rapport déposée au Parlement le 18 septembre. Le comité de direction du Conseil s'est penché sur ce rapport au cours de sa réunion de juin, et la lettre du 24 juin de la présidente du Conseil transmettant au Très Honorable Joe Clark, la réaction du Centre au rapport, a été distribuée à tous les gouverneurs. Le personnel du Centre est, comme vous, fier de ce que dit le comité Winegard du CRDI, soit qu'il a fait grandir la réputation internationale du Canada et qu'il compte parmi les organisations de développement les plus efficaces au monde. Nul doute que la recommandation la plus notable du comité au sujet du CRDI est celle qu'il conserve son statut spécial et autonome et qu'il continue de rendre compte au Parlement par l'entremise du secrétaire d'État aux affaires extérieures. Cette recommandation, le gouvernement du Canada l'a acceptée; toutes les autres organisations d'aide publique au développement relèvent du ministre des relations extérieures.

Je me préoccupe cependant de ce qu'implique la réponse du gouvernement quand il a dit que la part de l'APD allouée au CRDI serait probablement bloquée autour de 4 pour cent. Le geste généreux de l'ACDI, sous la présidence de notre collègue Maggie Catley-Carlson, de transférer au CRDI, dans l'exercice en cours, 2,2 millions de dollars de l'affectation de fonds du Parlement a quelque peu atténué ma déception, tout en constituant un beau témoignage de collaboration entre les deux organisations. Le Centre saisira le Conseil demain de la façon dont il entend employer ces fonds bienvenus. Pour l'instant, je souhaite, en votre nom, remercier sincèrement Maggie en personne de cette générosité et de son aide précieuse à de nombreux autres égards tout aussi importants.

Au milieu de mon rapport aux gouverneurs, je donne toujours non seulement des informations sur le Centre même, mais aussi des informations sur les réalisations et les travaux des divisions du personnel. Depuis mars dernier la moisson a été abondante et je ne tire ici que quelques exemples.

L'originale mais néanmoins efficace étude économique pour l'Ouganda, qui a été organisée par le CRDI et financée par l'ACDI, a véritablement aidé le gouvernement du pays à négocier avec succès, cet été, avec le FMI. La Banque mondiale et le FMI ont d'ailleurs fait état en public de la contribution du CRDI.

Une décision a été prise pour mieux faire connaître la bourse Pearson qui, à mon avis, est la plus prestigieuse du Canada. C'est de remettre à tous les boursiers Pearson une épingle émaillée portant une feuille d'érable rouge avec, surimprimée en blanc, le logo du CRDI. C'est une très jolie épingle comme peuvent en juger eux-mêmes les gouverneurs par cet échantillon. L'épingle, je m'empresse d'ajouter, a été dessinée par Gina Smart, l'épouse de Chris, et nous la remercions pour son précieux apport.

L'ancien président du comité d'aide au développement de l'OCDE, M. John Lewis, a terminé l'étude mondiale sur l'aide des donateurs à la recherche liée au développement, que le Centre lui avait suggéré de faire.

J'ai envoyé l'étude à un certain nombre de gouvernements et j'attends leur réaction au suivi que je leur ai proposé. Le rapport est actuellement disponible en anglais et vous sera envoyé dès que la traduction française sera complétée.

Chez le personnel du Centre et les personnes associées au Centre, il y aurait nombre de réalisations à mentionner. Je me contenterai d'en citer quelques-unes. Norm McDonald, détaché à l'IISA au Costa Rica, a terminé en juillet une vérification interne qui lui a valu les félicitations et une réponse positive de Martin Pineiro, le directeur général de l'IISA. Aree Valyasari de l'Université Mahidol de Thaïlande a reçu le prestigieux prix Magsaysay en partie grâce à ses recherches financées par le CRDI. Joe Hulse a pris la parole à une séance plénière du Congrès international de la science et de la technologie de l'alimentation tenu à Singapour, et aussi a représenté le Centre à la célébration du dixième anniversaire de création de l'ICRAF à Nairobi. Anne Whyte, maintenant Fellow de la Royal Society of Canada, a été nommée présidente du comité pour le Canada de l'Homme et la Biosphère. Doug Daniels a été élu membre du comité de rédaction de la Revue canadienne d'études du développement. Martha Stone a été élue au Conseil d'administration de Data for Development, une ONG internationale.

Un certain nombre d'arrivées, de départs et de mutations au sein du personnel vous seront signalés en temps et lieu. Pour l'instant, je ne mentionnerai que les suivants. Antoine Hawara ^{Sera} ~~a été~~ titularisé par vous-mêmes cet après-midi dans le poste de trésorier, à l'échelon de directeur. Ray Audet, qui a été de manière intérimaire directeur du CGT pendant tous les mois qu'il fallut pour étudier et modifier la structure de cette division, mérite les remerciement du Conseil pour s'être tiré honorablement de cet exigeant cumul de postes. Vous avez ~~également~~ déjà confirmé la nomination de David Nostbakken au poste de directeur des Communications. Je suis heureux de dire que David, maintenant dégagé de ses responsabilités antérieures, est chez nous à temps plein. Karl Smith a été nommé sous-directeur de la Division des sciences de la santé et, à ce titre, jouera un rôle clé dans la nouvelle structure de cette division. Greg Spendjian a quitté l'ACDI pour se joindre à nous à titre de sous-directeur des SAAN. Bruce Scott s'est vu octroyé un congé pour accepter le poste de directeur des programmes de coopération internationale au CIRAF. Pierre Sané le remplacera au poste de directeur du bureau régional de Dakar. Brenda Nichols, qui supervisait les services de réception du Centre et qui pendant plus de

dix ans a gracieusement et chaleureusement accueilli les gouverneurs à ses déjeuners, a pris sa retraite. Elle nous manque à tous et toutes. Wanda Green, qui appartenait au groupe toujours plus restreint des premiers employés du Centre, nous a quittés pour se mettre à son compte. Nos meilleurs voeux de succès.

Finally, Madam Chair, I shall conclude this overly-lengthy report with a brief catalogue of distinguished visitors to the Centre and, as is my practice, an account of my own movements. As I earlier informed the Executive Committee, we received here this spring the Prime Minister of Uganda, the Minister of Science and Technology of Turkey, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Crown Prince of Jordan, and Vice-Premier of China Fang-Yi. Among those we have welcomed this summer are the Minister of Constitutional Affairs of Uganda and the Minister of Finance of Nepal. The seminar marking Five Billion Day in July included as participants three former Governors, Maurice Strong, Victor Urquidi of Mexico, and William Winegard.

Since the June meeting of the Executive Committee I have travelled to Guelph to make final the Centre's response to the Winegard Report, to Washington, D.C. twice to participate in a panel of the Inter-American Dialogue and to attend a meeting of the Board of Trustees of IFPRI, to Montreal in connection with the forthcoming AIDS Conference, and to Toronto to meet with the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the Globe and Mail. I wish to report

as well that I have been appointed to the 25 member Board of Overseers of the new International Centre for Economic Growth in which I share membership with such as Raymond Barre, former Prime Minister of France, A.W. Clausen, former President of the World Bank, John Reed, Chairman of Citibank and Abdalatif Al-Hamad, Chairman of the Arab Fund. I hasten to add that this will not be a heavy burden, taking up much less time than my role as a member of the Board of IFPRI. This latter will expire in months to come as my three terms under CG rules expire. I'm delighted to add that my seat will be occupied by a distinguished Canadian well known to you - Prof. Gerry Helleiner - who was elected at the IFPRI Board meeting earlier this month. I know you join me in offering him congratulations.

That, Madam Chair, concludes my report.